

Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-157. (Cancelled)

158. (Currently amended) A method of treating obesity in a patient, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~ attaching a plurality of individual restrictor members to the wall of the stomach adjacent the gastro-esophageal junction, said members collectively forming an opening adjacent the gastro-esophageal junction for receiving food from the esophagus and restricting the flow of the food into the stomach

~~forming a plurality of angularly spaced plications about the gastro-esophageal junction of the patient's stomach by creating a plurality of tissue folds in a wall of stomach tissue thus drawing serosal layers of the stomach into contact with one another;~~

~~—— cutting through the tissue fold of each of the plications to form a hole in the plication; and~~

~~—— coupling an implant to the hole in each of the plurality of plications, the implant causing restriction of food consumption by the patient.~~

159. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~158~~178, wherein the ~~tissue fold includes~~further comprising:

forming a plurality plications comprising a tissue fold, each tissue fold including at least two layers of stomach wall tissue, and wherein the method further includes the step of

securing the tissue layers of the fold to one another.

160. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 159, wherein the securing step includes securing the tissue layers using sutures.

161. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 159, wherein the securing step includes securing the tissue layers using staples.

162. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~159~~183, wherein the hole includes edges and wherein the securing step includes securing the tissue layers around the edges.

163. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~158~~159, wherein the forming step includes the step of drawing a portion of the stomach wall inwardly to form each of the tissue fold plurality of plications, the ~~tissue fold~~plurality of plications including layers of serosal tissue positioned in contact with one another.

164. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 159, further including the step of positioning a reinforcing material between the tissue layers.

165. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 159, ~~wherein the~~further including the step of forming ~~step causes~~ tissue adhesions ~~to form~~ between the tissue layers.

166. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 159, further including the step of promoting adhesion between the tissue layers.

167. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~164~~166, wherein the promoting step includes positioning an in-growth promoting material between the tissue layers.

168. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 167, wherein the in-growth promoting material includes structural features for receiving tissue growth.

169. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 167, wherein the in-growth promoting material comprises an in-growth promoting substance.

170. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~165~~178, wherein the ~~implant is~~plurality of individual restrictor members are coupled to the holes in the plications after adhesions have formed between the tissue layers.

171. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~165~~178, wherein the ~~implant is~~plurality of individual restrictor members are coupled to the holes in the plications before adhesions have formed between the tissue layers.

172.-175. (Cancelled)

176. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~158~~178, wherein forming the ~~plurality of~~plurality of plications comprises forming four ~~tissue folds~~plications, and wherein the ~~coupling~~attaching step includes ~~coupling the implant~~attaching one of the individual restrictor members to the holes in ~~each one~~each one of the four ~~tissue folds~~plications.

177. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~158~~178, wherein ~~the implant is coupled~~one of the individual restrictor members is attached to the hole in ~~each one~~each one of the plications by a plurality of fasteners and said ~~coupling~~attaching comprises passing a first end of the fastener through the hole and a second end through the ~~implant~~individual restrictor member, where the first and second ends of the fastener are connected.

178. (New) The method according to claim 158, wherein said attaching includes forming a plurality of tissue plications in the stomach such that the plications are spaced about the gastro-esophageal junction; further comprising:

cutting a hole in each of the plications; and

attaching one of said individual restrictor members to the hole in each plication through the hold in the plication.

179. (New) The method according to claim 158, wherein three individual restrictor members are attached to the wall of the stomach.

180. (New) The method according to claim 158, wherein four individual restrictor members are attached to the wall of the stomach.

181. (New) The method according to claim 158, wherein the individual restrictor members are attached to the wall of the stomach by clips.

182. (New) The method according to claim 158, wherein the individual members collectively form a restriction at the gastro-esophageal junction so as to restrict the flow of food into the stomach.

183. (New) The method according to claim 159, wherein said attaching includes forming a plurality of tissue plications in the stomach such that the plications are spaced about the gastro-esophageal junction; further comprising:

cutting a hole in each of the plications; and

attaching one of said individual restrictor members to the hole in each plication through the hold in the plication.